
TO: Electoral Area Services Committee **MEETING:** September 4, 2018
FROM: Doug Gardiner
Fire & Rescue Services Coordinator **FILE:** 7380-01
SUBJECT: Fire Services Projects Update

RECOMMENDATION

That the Fire Services Projects Updates be received for information.

SUMMARY

A Fire Services Review was completed by Dave Mitchell and Associates in April 2016. Several recommendations were made in this review, which are in the process of being completed. The project to create a standardized set of Operational Guidelines for the six Regional District of Nanaimo Fire Halls began in early 2018 and is expected to be complete by the end of September 2018. The project to create a standard design for use in all new fire hall builds began in June 2018. This project is using the construction of the Dashwood Fire Hall as a template to create a Fire Hall design for use in the construction of future fire halls. The project to create a standard for fire apparatus is also in process, with the Apparatus Specification Committee agreeing on several standards and a long term plan for fire apparatus replacement and repurpose.

BACKGROUND

Fire Operational Guidelines:

In April 2016, a Fire Services Review was conducted for the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN). One of the recommendations from the review was that each Fire Department has a complete set of Operational Guidelines (OGs), and that the RDN, in cooperation with the fire departments, develop a uniform set of region-wide OGs for use by each department to reduce the workload involved and ensure consistency.

A Request for Proposal was issued in early 2018, and the contract was awarded to Tim Pley and Associates on April 16, 2018. The consultant met with the fire departments on May 24, 2018 to give a general overview of the project and have input from the fire departments on what they would like to see in the finished product. First, current OGs from fire departments were compiled, there were over 340 OGs. Tim Pley and Associates expects the completed project to have between 100-150 common OGs.

To date, there are one hundred (100) drafted OGs. Sixty-four (64) of these completed OGs were reviewed at a meeting on July 11, 2018 between the Fire Chiefs and contractor Tim Pley & Associates. At this meeting, the feedback from the Fire Chiefs has been positive and they are

pleased with the progress and product. These 64 completed OGs were electronically sent to the Fire Chiefs and are awaiting further comment.

The project was slated for completion at the end of August 2018. However, due to the wildfire season and scheduling, the review with the Fire Chiefs is scheduled for early September. The project is now due to be completed by the end of September. This extension will ensure the Fire Chiefs all have a chance for input, and the finished product will be satisfactory for all departments involved.

Standardization of Fire Halls:

The RDN issued a Request for Proposal to hire a consultant to provide a conceptual fire hall design for the Dashwood Fire Hall, with the purpose to design a functional and cost-efficient fire hall built to post-disaster requirements. A report was brought to the Electoral Area Services Committee (EASC) on June 12, 2018 where this project was endorsed. The Fire Hall Standardization Project was awarded to Zeidler Architecture (with sub-consultant Praxis).

In early July, the RDN Project Lead along with Zeidler Architecture had created a design suitable for the project. On July 11, 2018 the RDN Project Lead and Fire Service Coordinator met with members from the Dashwood Society Board and the Dashwood Fire Chief. The attendees suggested some minor changes which were made and were pleased with the overall product. On July 18, the design was shared with Errington, Coombs-Hilliers and Bow Horn Bay Fire Chiefs.

Moving forward, the project is expected to have complete conceptual drawings and 3D modeling to present to the Dashwood Society Board at their October 2018 meeting. By April-May 2019, the drawings will be ready for Informational Open Houses to the Dashwood public.

Standardization of Apparatus Equipment:

One of the recommendations of the Fire Service Review by Dave Mitchell and Associates in April 2016 was to create common fire apparatus specification templates for use in future purchases. An Apparatus Specification Committee was formed with representation from regional fire departments and the RDN Fire Service Coordinator. A meeting was held on January 18, 2018 with the intention to come up with a consensus on the cost-saving components for engines and tenders.

The committee realized that each department has their own challenges and needs to serve their individual communities, so one apparatus to fit all would not work. Although individual compartments can be determined based on the individual fire department's needs, it was agreed that the pump panel will be placed on the left side of the apparatus.

The committee had several recommendations the first being that engines use a custom "Spartan" cab and chassis. Other recommendations for engines are: to have the maximum horse power available at the time; as well as largest running gear and brakes available at the time. There are several reasons the committee made these recommendations. Choosing a custom cab and chassis is much safer in accidents with roll-over safety specifications. As well, the custom cabs also have more room inside for fire fighters, gear, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and are specifically designed and customizable for the industry. Custom chassis have a much better turning radius compared to the commercial chassis. There is a local warranty centre for Spartan in Ladysmith BC, so warranty service on the engines is convenient. Using a custom cab and chassis has a higher initial cost than a commercial cab and chassis,

however it has the option to repurpose in twenty to twenty-five years into crew carrying tenders for an additional ten to fifteen years. The next step will be to complete a full cost analysis as well as detailed report on what apparatus other similar fire departments use. This report will be completed in early 2019.

Overall the committee has agreed upon the same apparatus specifications for purchasing new equipment. Individual community needs have been considered and form part of the recommendations. Standardizing the fire department apparatus is a long term plan, as some departments have recently purchased equipment and will not need replacements for twenty to twenty-five years.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Fire Services Project Updates be received for information.
2. That alternative direction be provided.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications at this time.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Progress made to date on implementing the 2016 Fire Services Review recommendations supports the strategic priority of "Focus on Service and Organizational Excellence" by recognizing emergency services as a core element of community safety, and through providing support and improvement to operations and administration of the fire services within the RDN.



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August 13, 2018

Reviewed by:

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